



## The True Cost of Hand Injuries

Did you know that hand injuries result in more than a million emergency room visits each year, making them the second-most common work-related injury? An OSHA study indicating approximately 70 percent of workers who experienced hand injuries did not wear protective gloves when the injury occurred.

Here are some sobering statistics:

- A study appearing in *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* indicated that hand and wrist injuries represent the most expensive type of injury in the Netherlands, costing about \$740 million annually.
- Stitches can cost up to \$2,000, mending a laceration can cost up to \$10,000, and repairing a severed tendon can exceed \$10,000.
- The BLS reports, “The average hand injury claim has now exceeded \$6,000, with each lost-time workers’ compensation claim reaching nearly \$7,500.”

These numbers are only the tip of the iceberg. According to the American Society of Safety Engineers, indirect costs of injuries can be 20 times the direct costs. Indirect, virtually incalculable costs can include the expense of investigating the accident; lost worker productivity; training of a replacement employee; damage to workers’ morale that leads to absenteeism; and a negative impact on the company’s reputation.

We all know that some workers do not like to wear certain cut-resistant gloves because they are bulky and may not give the dexterity needed for a worker to

perform their tasks efficiently. This is why it is important to continue to learn about all aspects, so that workers have the right glove.

- What are they wearing now?
- What is the work task?
- What level of dexterity is needed?
- What level of cut protection is needed?
- What coating on the glove makes the most sense (are there oily parts)?
- How long are the gloves currently lasting?
- Is the customer willing to pay more for a glove with better protection or one that might last longer?

Granted, these might not be the only questions needing to be answered, but you can see that it is tricky trying to get the right glove for the right situation. There is always some trial and error with the process of getting the right glove—the Conney Safety Services Team can help with this.

02/23/16